

# MARCH 2009

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## Windham Middle School

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We encourage you to utilize the District and Middle School Web sites to obtain information. By going to the district site at [www.windhamsd.org](http://www.windhamsd.org), you can link to all of the Windham Schools.

### Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/WindhamMS>

- March 3 —M2M Executive Meeting 7AM
- March 4—M2M Connection
- March 6—Dance 7-9 PM
- March 10—No School— Teacher Workshop
- March 12<sup>th</sup>13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>—Drama Club Performances  
“Once on this Island”
- March 11— Earth Shuttle Meeting 7:30 PM
- March 13—Mid Terms Issued
- March 18— Curriculum Fair 6-8 PM
- March 20—Ski Trip
- March 27—Medieval Banquet
- March 30—Medieval Banquet Snow Date
- April 2—8th Grade Mandatory Parent  
Information Night— DC Trip 7:30 PM
- April 3—Dance—7-9 PM

### CURRICULUM FAIR

Please join us on Wednesday, March 18th from 6 – 8 P.M. for the Windham Middle School Curriculum Fair. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see student projects, presentations, and musical entertainment reflecting the curriculum for all subjects and all grade levels at our school. Also, of course, our wonderful restaurant, **Le Café Rosa**, will be open with delicious samples of French and Spanish food.

### PTA

Remember it is never too late to join Windham PTA. Check out the website [www.windhampta.org](http://www.windhampta.org) to download membership forms and find links to lots of information.

Middle School and PTA sponsored a Laser Tag trip to LaserCraze in North Andover on February 11th. Seventy-one students had a great afternoon, playing laser tag and enjoying pizza. Students, staff and parent volunteers all had a terrific time.

### 6TH GRADE NEWS

In language arts, our students have been actively involved in the writing process through various types of writing such as “How – To” poems and journaling. Next, they will continue developing their skills in completing the Immigration Research Paper.

In reading, our sixth graders have also been strengthening their writing skills and reading comprehension strategies by examining point of view and figurative language through their exciting literature unit of Flipped!

In social studies, our students have been intently focused on the geography and culture of Southwest Asia and North Africa. They have participated in a wide variety of activities including mapping, graphing and completing country posters. Next, our students will engage in an exciting unit on North America. In this unit, students will examine the relationships between the United States and Canada as they compare and contrast their culture to that of our friendly neighbors.

The first phase of the Bits and Pieces Unit has just been completed in math. Next, our sixth graders will enter “Shapes and Designs: Two-Dimensional Geometry.” During this unit, the students will be enhancing their understanding and skills surrounding the characteristics of different shapes and the relationships among them.

In pre – algebra, students finished their “Integers and Properties of Addition & Multiplication” unit. The students are now “Stretching and Shrinking” their way through understanding similarity. During this unit, students will learn the mathematical meaning of similarity and explore the properties of similar figures.

The sixth graders have been shaken up a bit with their study of Earthquakes and Volcanoes in science classes! They’ve participated in some really exciting investigations through their “Fault” and “Sea Floor Spreading” labs! As a culminating activity to their learning, the students will participate in the “Shake, Rattle and Roll” project by creating structures able to withstand a “Sixth-Grade Earthquake!”

Congratulations to all the students who received Outstanding Student Awards for the third quarter. To all our sixth graders, continue your good efforts, keep up the good work, and end your sixth grade year strong!

## 7TH GRADE NEWS

In March, we will be doing literature circles - student-led discussion groups - in reading. In language arts, we will be starting our next writing project which will coincide with the Medieval Unit in social studies: a compare/contrast essay. We will also be doing more work with vocabulary, and we will begin a review of the parts of speech.

Students are beginning to get excited about our study of Medieval Europe to begin as soon as we return from February break. They will be choosing an individual or team project to be working on at home during the month, which will supplement what we will be learning in class about the time period.

Our studies will culminate with our exciting Medieval Day celebration on Friday, March 27th. As many probably know, that will include a Medieval banquet with authentic entertainment of the time, followed by a jousting tournament among all the manors (home rooms). Full information about the project and Medieval Day will be sent home with students and posted on Teacher Web as soon as we return from the break. I'm sure this year's celebration will prove to be as fun a learning experience as it has been in past years.

The seventh grade algebra class is studying polynomials and quadratic relationships. They will explore all the operations with monomials and polynomials and will continue on to factoring; they will investigate the differences between linear and quadratic relationships and how they are indicated in a table, a graph, and an equation. The seventh grade pre-algebra classes are investigating similar figures and using similar figures to solve problems. They will be extending this to ratio, proportion and percent problems and using proportions to solve problems. The seventh grade math classes are working with volume and surface area; they will investigate how a change in one dimension affects both of these. Their next unit will be with integers; they will investigate the properties of integers and learn to compute with them and use them for problem solving.

In 7th grade science classes, we are continuing our study of genetics; how traits are passed down from parents to offspring. We are also taking time to practice metric measurements in length and mass. After vacation, we will include volume and density.

## EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Pre-algebra students are wrapping up the unit on patterns and combining like terms and after vacation will investigate the Pythagorean Theorem and develop their understanding of area and right triangles. Geometry students are working on properties of triangles through postulates and theorems, as well as indirect proofs. After vacation students in algebra will investigate monomials, polynomials, and quadratic equations.

ILS classes are finishing music videos with Hyperstudio and also just finished a project using Microsoft Excel to calculate perimeter and area by building formulas into individual cells.

Science students were lectured on motion, including speed, velocity, and acceleration. Labs were conducted on calculating the speed and acceleration of a marble. We also experimentally figured out where to paint lines on a basketball court so all players could play safely. The next unit will be on Newton's Three Laws. Students have extensively been utilizing MOODLE to save artifacts to their portfolios, pass assignments in electronically, and take tests on the computer.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes either have been or will be studying Anne Frank and the Holocaust as well as the power of persuasion. Mrs. McCorkle's classes just finished their persuasive research projects resulting in persuasive essays with parenthetical documentation and formal speeches were delivered. The next units will be advertising and then the Holocaust. Mrs. Morrow and Ms. Roy just completed the Holocaust unit and will be delving into research for their persuasive essays. At the end of the month, Judith Black will give a presentation to all language arts classes portraying a Holocaust survivor.

Social studies classes have just completed a unit on the Civil War and Reconstruction, during which they shared knowledge about specific battles and also analyzed important documents (including the Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address, and Reconstruction Amendments). This month, students will be continuing their study of history by looking at US expansion during the late 19th century and early 20th century. Students will write editorials on the issue of US imperialism during this period.

S.M.I.L.E.S. is a newly formed group of 8th graders who are Spreading Meaningful Irreplaceable Life Experience Selflessly. WMS S.M.I.L.E.S. had their first outing to the Windham Terrace, an assisted living residence. Students gave the residents gift bags and carnations. We also talked, sang, and played the piano for all in attendance. Finally, we had a free raffle for everyone. Our next community service event will hopefully be at a local hospital.

## **MUSIC NEWS**

Windham Middle School Presents  
**ONCE ON THIS ISLAND**  
A part of  
The Broadway Junior Collection

The talented students of Windham Middle School will be performing Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty's Broadway Junior version of "Once on this Island" on March 12th and 13th at 7:00pm and March 14th at 2:00pm in the Windham Middle School Cafetorium. Donations are greatly appreciated at the door.

Come see a show filled with much drama, laughter, and enticing music that will make you want to dance and sing along with the performers on stage. "Once on this Island" is based on Rosa Guy's novel "My Love, My Love" where a young peasant girl falls in love with a man from a world of wealth and luxury and is sent on "a journey that would test the strength of love against the power of death."

With dance and song numbers that are wrought with much energy and excitement and a story that will fill your heart with emotion, "Once on this Island" is a show that is not to be missed! We hope to see you there!

## **MEDIA CENTER NEWS**

It's been wonderful to have some 8<sup>th</sup> grade and all 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes in the Media Center doing research. We will continue with the rest of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade after February vacation. 6<sup>th</sup> graders are doing book reports on either Great Stone Face Book Award nominees for 2009 or an award-winning book. They will all be discussing the books in a Moodle threaded discussion. What a great way to share thoughts across all classes! March is "I Like to Read" month, as well as Read Across America which honors Dr. Seuss on his birthday. We will be having a variety of promotions to encourage students to read! For example, check out a book that is based in your favorite state: Twilight – Washington, Alabama Moon – Alabama, Julie of the Wolves - Alaska.

## **GUIDANCE NEWS**

### **M<sub>2</sub>M**

**M<sub>2</sub>M training** is scheduled for **March 3rd**. The Executives will meet at 7:00am in the Café and the training will take place during Advisory. Connections with 6th grade will be March 4th. The theme this month will be **Fitness**.

### **Walking Club**

We will be introducing a Windham Middle School Walking Club. Look for announcements and permission slips in the daily bulletin and lobby. Dust off those sneakers and let's go walking. Please see Mrs. Lichtmann for further information.

### **DC Final Payment**

A reminder to all students going to Washington, DC, that final payments are due March 20th.

### **YEARBOOKS**

Yearbooks are still on sale for \$25.00. There will not be any available for purchase after April 25<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase your Yearbook.

The next Yearbook Committee meeting will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> in the Computer Lab at 2:15.

### **SPANISH NEWS**

Students researched information about Valentine's Day in Spanish-speaking countries, including how and when it is celebrated. Students created posters, little books, and cards using the information about the country they chose and Spanish vocabulary.

### **CHANGE OF BUS REMINDER**

This is a reminder that the office requires a **written note, signed by a parent**, if a child is taking another bus home from school.